



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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3/16/03

In re Application of: Thomas et al.

Serial No: 09/486,280

Based on: PCT/US99/16972

Filed: February 24, 2000

For: Multi-Purpose Vessel and Method for
Recovering, Storing and/or Offloading Material
in a Dredging Operation

Attorney Docket No.: 29038/10006

Group Art Unit: 3652

Examiner: J. Krizek

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20231 on this date:

March 10, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

In response to the office action mailed October 9, 2002, please amend the above-
identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A multi-purpose vessel for use when recovering material from a bottom
surface of a body of water, the vessel comprising:
a hull;
a dredge assembly mounted to the hull, the dredge assembly being adapted to recover
the material from the bottom surface;
a hopper supported by the hull, the hopper being adapted to receive the material and
including a floor, at least a portion of the floor being moveable to permit movement of the
material in the hopper; and

A/